

they assumed the name of Disraeli, a name never borne before or since by any other family, in order that their race might be for ever recognised. Undisturbed and unmolested they flourished as merchants for more than two centuries under the protection of the lion of St. Mark, which was but just, as the patron Saint of the Republic was himself a child of Israel. But towards the middle of the eighteenth century the altered circumstances of England, favorable, as it was then supposed, to commerce and religious liberty, attracted the attention of my great-grandfather to this island, and he resolved that the youngest of his two sons, Benjamin, the son of his right hand, should settle in a country where the dynasty seemed at length established through the recent failure of Prince Charles Edward, and where public opinion appeared definitively adverse to persecution of creed and conscience.

The Jewish families who were then settled in England were few, though, from their wealth and other circumstances, they were far from unimportant. They were all of thorn Sephardim — that is to say, Children of Israel, who had never quitted the shores of the Midland Ocean until Torquemada had driven them from their pleasant refidouxIH and rich estates in Arragon, and Andalusia, and Portugal, to seek greater blessings even than a clear atmosphere and a glowing sun, amid the marshes of Holland and the fog» of Britain. Most of these families, who held them salvos aloof from, the Hebrews of Northern Europe, then only oec.aNion-ally - stealing into England, as from an inferior canto, arid whose synagogue was reserved only for the Sephardim, uro now extinct; while the branch of the great family, whio.h, notwithstanding their own sufferings from prejudice, they had the hardihood to look down upon, have achieved an amount of wealth and consideration which the Bephardim, even with the patronage of Mr. Pelhain, never could have contemplated. Nevertheless, at the time when my grandfather settled in England, and when Mr. Pelham, who waB very favourable to the Jews, was Prime Minister, tllore might be found, among other Jewish families settled in this country, the Villa Keals, who brought wealth to these shores almost as great as their name, though that is the second in Portugal, and who have twice allied themselves with the Kngliah. aristocracy, the Medinas, the Laras — who were our kinsmen — and the Mendez da Costas, who, I believe, still exist.

Whether it were that my grandfather, on his arrival, was not encouraged by those to whom he had a right to look up